SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 15 MAY 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

In the news today:

NOTICE TO ALL RAE CANDIDATES, LECTURERS AND ASSESSORS

SARL YOUTH DAY

TWO MEMBERS CO-OPTED TO COUNCIL

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. Please place your news items on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English, but please double check any all figures very well, the editor can readily correct text but cannot do so with most figures.

You are listening to ZS6SRL and the news follows in detail:

TWO MEMBERS CO-OPTED TO COUNCIL

During a Council meeting on 21 April, two persons were co-opted as councillors. They are:

Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, and George Tokarczyk, ZR6ALP.

Hans's portfolio will be public relations and events managing including the RTA program and IARU.

George's portfolio will be development together with the president, Graham Hartlett.

Sarlnews say thanks to these two persons who are willing to serve on the Council and wishes them strength for the tasks ahead.

NOTICE TO ALL RAE CANDIDATES, LECTURERS AND ASSESSORS

The Radio regulations, as gazetted on the 4th of February 2005, requires that as part of his/her training, a candidate must furnish proof of his/her ability to correctly set up, adjust and operate an amateur HF transceiver.

The relevant assessment form can now be downloaded form the SARL web site at www.sarl.org.za.

This form must be duely completed and returned with the candidate's exam papers and licence application. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a delay in the issuing of call signs.

SARL YOUTH DAY

Make a BIG note for Thursday 16th June 2005 - it is the SARL Youth Day activity running from 09:00 to 13:00 on 40, 20 and 2 metres. The Sasolburg ARC is arranging with the local Scouts and Voortrekkers for a fun filled day! What are you planning?

ARLS004 NEW AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITE IN ORBIT

HAMSAT (or VUsat) is the latest Amateur Radio satellite in orbit. It is India's first.

"We congratulate all who have worked for the Hamsat and its successful launch," said Sandip Shah, VU3SXE, AMSAT-India's treasurer, who was at the control center in Bangalore, India, for the May 5 launch. The satellite went aloft from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota.

Going into space with the 42,5 kg HAMSAT was the primary payload–the 1560 kg Indian remote sensing satellite, CARTOSAT-1. The spacecraft were placed into polar sun synchronous orbits at an altitude of 632 x 621 km with an equatorial inclination of 97,8 degrees.

HAMSAT will provide two new linear mode U/V transponders for SSB and CW use only. Only one transponder will be active at any given time. AMSAT-India indicates the UHF uplink will be in the 435,35 MHz range, while the VHF downlink will be in the 145,90 MHz range. Details are not yet available.

Dutch graduate student William Leijenaar, PE1RAH, who designed one of the transponders aboard HAMSAT, saw the PSLV-C6 vehicle carry the satellite skyward from SDSC SHAR. "It was very interesting to see how my radio finally went into space," he said afterward. "It is the best ham radio experience in my life." Leijenaar said reports he'd received indicated that the onboard computer was showing the batteries and solar panels working normally. "We just are a few days away from 'CQ CQ HAMSAT' QSOs," he said.

The satellite has not yet been given an OSCAR designation. There's more information on the AMSAT-India Web site, http://www.amsatindia.com/hamsat.htm. (From the ARRL news)

RADIO REGULATORY CHANGES REPORTED ABROAD (From the ARRL newsletter.)

Sweden's telecommunication regulatory agency PTS has taken steps to deregulate Amateur Radio and essentially no longer requires a government license. Effective last fall, the PTS turned over Amateur Radio operator "certification" to the Society of Swedish Radio Amateurs (SSA), that country's IARU member-society. Under the new regulatory regime, the SSA administers testing and issues operator certificates and call signs, which have SA prefixes and three-letter suffixes. There's no longer a Morse code requirement for HF access.

The PTS still handles relevant international agreements, such as band allocations, in conjunction with the ITU. Sweden no longer dictates mode-specific subbands within amateur bands, but band plans are in place. The new call signs can be issued by both the SSA and the PTS, but the SSA option reportedly is less expensive. All previously issued Swedish call signs are valid for life. Foreign visitors from countries outside the CEPT agreement must still apply to the PTS for temporary operating authority in Sweden.

Kenya's telecommunications regulator, the CCK, recently issued a new schedule of Amateur Radio frequencies, modes and power limits. Ted Alleyne, 5Z4NU, of the Amateur Radio Society of Kenya reports that radio amateurs there now may use 30 meters (10,100 to 10,150 MHz) and 160 meters (1,810 to 1,850 MHz).

The National Telecommunications Commission of Thailand has granted permission through 2005 for all Thai radio amateurs to use 80 and 160 meters during contest periods. HS- and E2- stations may use 1,800-1,825 MHz and 3,500-3,540 MHz, CW or SSB, during contest weekends.

Starting May 1 in the Czech Republic, new regulations provide access to 7,100 to 7,200 MHz for Amateur Radio on a secondary basis. Power output is limited to 250 W PEP. The Czech Republic also has begun issuing Novice class licenses with OK9-prefix call signs and three-letter suffixes. Operation is permitted on 160, 80, 15 and 10 meters on HF, and up to 2 meters on VHF, at a maximum power output of 10 W.

The Malta Communication Authority has automatically extended HF privileges to "codeless" Class B licensees. Licensees in Malta still must pass a Morse code examination to operate CW on the HF bands, however.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

All SARL members with an email facility can assist the SARL in saving a substantial amount in printing and postage costs on membership invoices for the 2005/2006 year which will be sent out shortly as their invoices will be sent by email.

All members are kindly requested to check that their email addresses on the SARL database are correct. This can be done by logging on to the SARL web site at www.sarl.org.za and looking up your entry via the callbook. Corrections, and additions, can be advised to Vee by email at admin@sarl.org.za or via fax to 011 675 2793.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Kobus, ZS6KOB, reported that although there were a number of interesting developments on the sun, propagation conditions were once again poor during the past week. The sunspot number, against all expectation, suddenly increased over the past few days. On Thursday it was 72,8 compared to last week's 49,4. Of interest was the very short peak of 107 on 9 May. "I believe that a few lucky people caught it but I didn't" says Kobus ZS6KOB. There were also more active areas (six) on the sun's surface. Quiet to active conditions may occur between 13 and 14 May as a result of a low influx of corrona mass towards the earth. The general forecast is that conditions will be weak.

DIARY OF EVENTS

19 May - Radio Amateur Examination; 21 May - East Rand Fox hunt with bigger prizes; 29 May - President's net and INTECHNET; 31 May - closing date for part 2 of the 2005 Construction Competition; 31 May - Verify your email address if not already doane; 16 June - SARL Youth Day.

The SARL invites you to listen on Sundays at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 810, 7 205, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and George, ZS6NE, and read by …….from…… as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

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